

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed on December 29, 2006. Claims 129, 133-146 and 150-171 are rejected. Claims 129, 133-146, 158-161, and 171 have been amended. No claims have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 129 because of informalities. Claim 129 has been amended to remove the informalities.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 129, 133-137, 141-146, 150-156 and 158-171 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sunshine, et al., (U.S. Patent 6,085,576, hereinafter “Sunshine”) in view of DeLuca, (U.S. Patent 6,238,338, hereinafter “DeLuca”). Claims 138-140 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sunshine, in view of DeLuca and further in view of Amano, (U.S. Patent 5,941,837, hereinafter “Amano”). Claim 157 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sunshine in view of DeLuca and further in view of Amano and further in view of McNabb, (U.S. Patent No. 5,927,603, hereinafter “McNabb”) and further in view of Durbin (U.S. Patent 6,039,258 hereinafter “Durbin”) and further in view of King, et al., (U.S. Patent 4,565,999, hereinafter “King”). As discussed below, the pending claims are patentable over the above references.

Sunshine is directed to a handheld sensing device (e-nose device) which is used to sense the presence and concentration of specified vapors. The e-nose device includes a display and input devices, such as push buttons a keypad, and the like. The e-nose device uses internal battery as a power source. The e-nose device can be placed in an electrical charging station to recharge the battery. The charging station includes a data line to couple the e-nose device with a host computer. The host computer can be used to update the e-nose device with specific information. Hence, the e-nose device can be coupled with the host computer via a rechargeable station.

The Examiner asserts that the rechargeable station in Sunshine is an equivalent of the hardware interface claimed in claim 129. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Firstly, the rechargeable station in Sunshine is coupled with the host computer such as a PC, and not a handheld computer device as required by claim 129. Secondly, the rechargeable station in Sunshine is not an attachable component of the host computer but rather an independent device. In contrast, the hardware interface claimed in claim 129 is an attachable component of the handheld computer device. Sunshine does not teach or suggest having a hardware interface that is part of a handheld computer device and is attachable to the handheld device. This limitation is included in the following language of claim 129:

129. A handheld computer device comprising:
a hardware interface attachable to the handheld computer device and
couplable with at least one attachable sensor, the at least one attachable sensor to
perform data acquisition when attached to the hardware interface and be
programmable by the handheld computer device....

This limitation is also missing from each of DeLuca, Amano, McNabb, Durbin and King. Thus, the cited references taken alone or in combination do not teach or suggest the present invention as claimed in claim 129 and its corresponding dependent claims.

With respect to claim 146, Sunshine does not teach or suggest having an adjustable module attachable to a handheld computer, where a combination of the handheld computer and the adjustable module when it is attached to the handheld computer has a handheld size. Similar limitation is also included in claims 158 and 171. The handheld size of the above combination provides convenience in use and other advantages. For example, the present specification describes one embodiment of the present invention as follows:

The attachable module is of such a size and weight that either it alone, or it when combined with the hand-held computer device, will still fit within the comfortable ergonomic limitations and positions of its human user and, more specifically, to that which can be carried about and used with a single hand.

(Specification, page 22, paragraph 3)

None of the cited references teach or suggest having an adjustable module attachable to a handheld computer, where a combination of the handheld computer and the attached adjustable module has a handheld size, as claimed in the present invention. This limitation is included in the following language of claim 146:

.... wherein when the adjustable module is attached to the handheld computer, a combination of the adjustable module and the handheld computer has a handheld size.

Similar language is also included in claims 158 and 171. Thus, the present invention, as claimed in claims 146, 158 and 171 and their corresponding dependent claims, is patentable over the cited references.

Applicants submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) have been addressed, and respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections. Applicants furthermore submit that all pending claims are in now condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

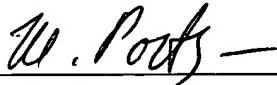
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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